

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Protesting to win since 1911

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1995

BY CHRIS SCOTT

About 15 'Raging Grannies' and supporters converged outside the French Consulate in Montréal Friday to denounce France's nuclear testing in the South Pacific and to expose Canada's role as the supplier of the uranium that makes the Bomb.

Members from the nationwide network of concerned grandmothers timed the protest to coincide with the possible D-Day for the second in a series of eight tests ordered by France's new right-wing President Jacques Chirac. Jacques Baumel, vice-chairman of the French National Defense Association, had suggested on September 22nd that the test would happen "in eight, or 10 or 12 days: perhaps sooner." The new bomb is believed to be over seven times more powerful than the Hiroshima-sized blast that shook Moruroa Atoll September 5th.

The second test is expected to occur at Fangatoufa, a smaller atoll 25 miles south-west of Moruroa. Fangatoufa and Moruroa have together played host to more than 180 French nuclear explosions, the radioactive residue of which is slowly leaking from underground cavities into the surrounding sea.

The tests, which France characterised in a press release as "indispensable" to its national security, have been vigorously condemned by the world community as an environmental menace and a sabotage of the planetary peace process.

New Zealand has dispatched a navy research vessel to participate in the Greenpeace Peace Flotilla outside the 12-mile exclusion zone off Moruroa. After the first bomb, Australia and Chile recalled their ambassadors from Paris, an act frequently associated with the declaration of war.

On September 9th, eight members of parliament from Italy, Luxembourg, Sweden, Japan and Australia sailed into the French-imposed exclusion zone to deliver a letter condemning "the colonial attitude of the French government and its disregard for all the nations of the South Pacific." They were promptly arrested by French authorities.

Resistance has by far been strongest among Polynesians, some of whom live on islands only 60 miles from Moruroa. Terrified by the rising incidence of birth defects, cancers and new diseases and anxious about the contamination of their food supply, they have poured onto the streets of the Tahitian capital, Papeete, with unprecedented fury to challenge the nuclear policy, and, increasingly, the very basis for French colonial presence.

"Our call for social justice and an end to environmental destruction are one and the same... We have not been allowed self-determination, to decide anything for ourselves," said Tahitian social worker Vaihere Barden in an interview with the *Manchester Guardian*.

Fourteen thousand protesters marched in Papeete after the first plans for resumed testing were announced in June. As a proportion of

THE PEACE WARS



DAILY PHOTO BY LUCY ATKINSON

French Consulate targeted for nuclear testing

tional Airport, built by France and a symbol of the French presence, was attacked with a bulldozer and set on fire. Over 300 troops were flown in to quash the uprising.

Resistance north and south

Such sovereigntist sentiments find a clear echo in Northern Saskatchewan where more than 11 000 tonnes of uranium are extracted annually from native soil. The Dene — the local First Nation — are intensely opposed to uranium mining and have held numerous blockades and demonstrations to stop the contamination of

their food chains and to assert more control over their territories.

As is the case in the South Pacific, Saskatchewan's radioactive waste is often stored near or leaked into local waterways, where it quickly infects the fish, moose and other animals that communities still depend on for a living.

At one site where studies were conducted near the Dubnya mine, northern pike and lake trout were found to have more than 11 000 times the natural doses of radioac-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

the city's population, this would be equivalent to a 500 000 person demonstration in Montreal.

On September 6th, the Interna-

SSMU's new budget angers students

BY TANYA NGUYEN AND ROBIN PERELLE

In a pattern becoming familiar to all Canadians, McGill's Students' Society (SSMU) released its own deficit-slashing budget last week — to the frustration of many student leaders.

Their frustration stemmed from VP Finance Kelly Remail's allocation of funds, which prioritised profits over student-run clubs and services.

While operations like the cafeterias and pubs in the Shatner University Centre drew one quarter of SSMU's spending money, the clubs and services were granted less than five per cent of the budget.

Using language similar to that of Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin, Remail explained that this year's budget was designed to make up for last year's shortfall of \$190 000.

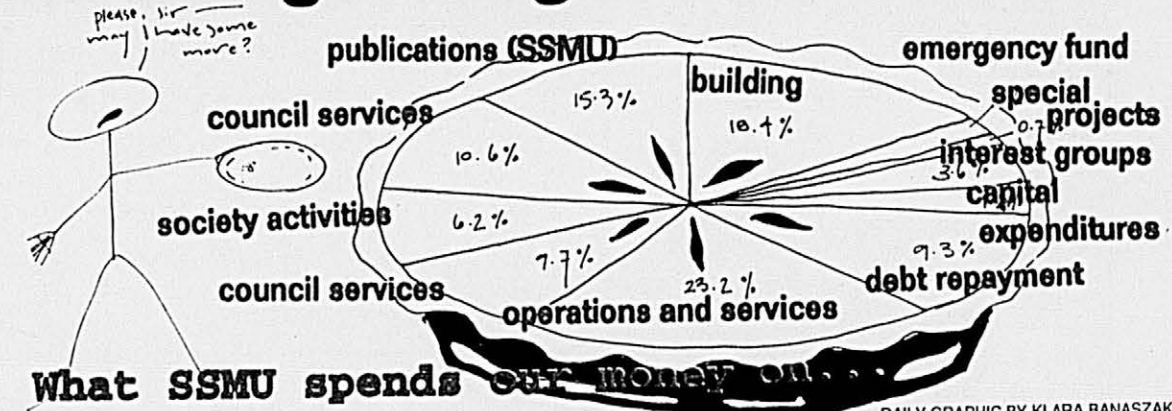
"The Financial Affairs Portfolio Committee on Council has been working hard to prioritise the SSMU's spending, and ensure that next year's council, and hopefully all future councils, are left with a clean slate," said Remail.

"In this situation, it is often very tempting to borrow money and attempt to maintain the same level of cash flows. It is the opinion of the Committee, however, that this is not the way to proceed. We are aiding no one by borrowing money and operating in a deficit position," he continued.

But many students disagree with Remail's plan to pay off the deficit at the expense of SSMU's student clubs and services.

The dichotomy was especially evident in the situation regarding Gert's Pub. In their search for profit, SSMU poured an estimated \$50 000 into renovating the chronically money-losing pub.

At the same time, the Finance



DAILY GRAPHIC BY KLARA BANASZAK

Committee tried to cut funds to student groups like the Black Students' Network (BSN) and McGill Students for Literacy (MSL).

Chris Carter, an SSMU clubs' representative and a member of this year's Financial Affairs Committee, was not impressed. In fact, he described SSMU's treatment of the clubs and services as "highly unethical".

"A lot of services, such as MSL and the BSN, were not valued. They had to be quizzed, interrogated, and examined for every detail they proposed in their budget," Carter stated.

Remail revealed his lack of respect for such student-run services when he sent an e-mail to MSL President Lorna Yates questioning the importance of funding her group's activities.

"...[W]hy should SSMU give any funds to MSL at all? Why should every SSMU member be forced to pay for a service that 'literate' individuals outside of McGill? How does that directly benefit any member of SSMU?" Remail asked.

Countered Joyce Lau, assistant editor-in-chief of the McGill Tribune, "MSL's goal is to train students to provide a service which literates people, and to reach out to people beyond McGill," she said. "In providing funds to MSL, SSMU is not giving their money to a charity. MSL

is using their funds to send students out for the education of students."

Although the Financial Affairs Committee eventually granted MSL the funds needed to operate this year, the compromise was only reached after a long and frustrating inquisition.

Were student interests really served?

Another group adversely affected by the 1995/96 SSMU budget was the BSN. Pat Harewood, the Network's educational co-ordinator, said that SSMU essentially abandoned them to raise their own operating funds this year.

"SSMU is a society that is supposed to serve its students... Many members of the BSN are frustrated that they are having such a hard time gaining access to SSMU's financial resources," Harewood said.

With their limited budget of \$1655, Harewood said the BSN may have to spend more time fundraising this year than running such important community projects as the tutoring service.

This year's budget has raised important questions about student representation on SSMU's Financial Affairs Committee.

"Personally, I don't think that we spend enough money on clubs... Furthermore, there is no requirement

nor guarantee that there be any reps [from the clubs and services on the Financial Committee] at all," stated Carter.

He added that services like the MSL had not even been informed about the possibility of appealing to the committee for more money. Had they not appealed, many targeted student groups would still have no financial resources to work with this year.

Remail maintained that there is adequate representation on the financial committee.

In response to this year's profit-oriented budget, representatives from the service groups have formed the Services Coalition to defend their financial needs. At a meeting on Sept. 20, they formulated two of their own proposals.

The Services Coalition insisted that there should always be at least one student representative from each service group on the SSMU committees entrusted with allocating funds.

The coalition also suggested that SSMU implement a policy guaranteeing at least \$3000 to each service, in order to ensure a minimum amount of financial stability.

Asked to respond to these suggestions, Remail said he has not yet formulated an opinion.

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NUCLEAR PROTEST



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
tailings ponds where the waste is dumped, and several hunters have discovered fetuses with two heads in the bellies of cows they have shot.

Not that buying from a grocery store is necessarily safer: According to Jim Hasty, a longtime shipper near Wollaston Lake, the same truck that hauls uranium south to Saskatoon is also used to transport food to northern communities.

Given these conditions, it is scarcely surprising that the Dene are suffering from many of the same afflictions experienced in Polynesia. Overall cancer deaths in Northern Saskatchewan are 30 per cent above the provincial average, infant mortality 20 per cent greater, and the annual incidence of death-by-population nearly 50 per cent higher. A similar situation exists in Australia where vast amounts of uranium are also extracted, also almost exclusively on Aboriginal land.

It is an ironic fact that while Australia and Canada have both condemned the French testing, they are jointly responsible for about half the world's extractable uranium and have shown no qualms about exporting to France throughout the current crisis.

In the case of Canada, one of the two main companies now mining in Saskatchewan is COGEMA, of which 90 per cent is owned by the French Commission d'Energie Atomique, according to former MPP. Peter Prebelle. The Commission is the agency directly responsible for supplying material for France's nuclear bombs, explained Prebelle.

Although Canada theoretically has a policy of not exporting uranium for military purposes, it has taken no measures to determine where its products are actually going.

In practice the federal government has gone out of its way to open up new concessions to COGEMA, even overturning the recommendations of its own Atomic Energy Control Board in the process, Prebelle said.

Taking it through the streets

For the protesters in Montréal, taking personal responsibility was the key to overcoming Chirac's militarism. Grannies handed out flyers encouraging a boycott of French imports (which include Evian Water and Beaujolais Wines) whose producers have not yet made public statements against the tests.

But Canadians and Quebecers also have much to answer for, including shipments of uranium right through Montréal, said grandmother Judy Berlin.

And the oppression of indigenous peoples, both in Canada and outside, was never far from the group's attention. The consensus was that the entire attitude of colonialism, spheres of influence and resource extraction that makes the arms race seem necessary must be overcome.

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COMMENT

Uncommon sense

It's only been three months. And already Ontario Premier Mike Harris has managed to push through policy after policy that goes against all common sense.

Repeating the mantra of "fundamental change," the Harris government has managed to drastically alter the landscape of social services in Ontario. In a comment to the *Globe and Mail* on Thursday, September 28, Premier Harris compared Ontario to a family: "When families are short of money, they make hard choices so they can pay the rent and keep food on the table. They live within their means. Now the government has to do the same," he said.

Harris' logic is dangerously misleading. It almost sounds like common sense — but it isn't. Who said that going on welfare and standing in line at food banks isn't a hard choice to begin with? And how many welfare families do you know that are living beyond their means?

What do Harris' policies really mean for the "family of Ontario?"

They mean that teenagers in abusive homes won't be able to get a welfare cheque to enable them to just get out. Instead, they will have to remain at home or in a foster home.

Any mother with young kids who can't find a benevolent neighbour with nothing to do to but baby-sit her kids will have to take time off work. And if she happens to be a mother under the soon-to-be workfare system, staying at home will cost her a welfare cheque.

Labour unions that are on strike will have their voices effectively silenced by management's hiring of strike-breakers.

The disabled, ethnic minorities and women will see a rollback in gains they've made in part because of pay-equity and affirmative action.

Is this what Harris means by hard choices?

It is clear that the Harris mandate has less to do with deficit-slashing than with the redistribution of wealth.

The income tax which he announced last week has been called by many critics a tax for the rich. "I call Harris the Robin Hood in reverse. We're seeing him move money from the poor to the rich," Judy Rebick said last week.

Sue Cox from the Daily Bread Food Bank said to the *Daily* of the Harris mandate, "This is a propaganda war against low-income people that we're talking about."

What the Harris mandate is really about is the increased polarisation between those who have and those who have less.

In the United States, this kind of polarisation has intensified dramatically in the last 40 years because of the lack of social services as a mediator. Is this the type of system that the "family of Ontario" really wants to see in the streets of their cities?

If it is not stopped, the consequences of this class polarisation will result in, among other things, increased social violence, unrest and drug and alcohol abuse.

Harris says the impact of his cuts to social spending can be offset by a spirit of volunteerism. But people are already doing their share. Sue Cox called the suggestion for volunteerism "ludicrous and naive." We agree. Toronto food drives already have the highest level of community donation in North America, and charities are absorbing as much of the demand as they can. To expect a sudden shift to corporate benevolence is unrealistic, especially for Tory free market values.

The bottom line is, Harris doesn't care. While Ontario is preparing to fight its biggest battle to protect social rights and welfare, Mike Harris sits isolated in his office.

Incidentally, that office is in a new building across the street from the Ontario legislature, where the Premier's office had been until now. Until Harris decided to move to a building sealed off by security guards and accessible only by a private elevator.

Harris may have been elected for his 'folksy touch,' but the next five years will prove just how divorced from the common people — geographically, politically and socially — he really is.

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LETTERS

'Other' perspectives at CASA?

TO THE *DAILY*,

I would like to register my disgust at a statement made by Nick Benedict in the *Daily*'s article on CASA (Thursday, September 7, 1995). Benedict, a co-founder of CASA, was quoted as saying: "student leaders at any university are going to be disproportionately straight, white males as a general rule. The best thing to do is acknowledge this and try to figure out how to ensure that other perspectives are being represented."

It astounds me that leaders of CASA can so merrily proclaim their intent to maintain status quo imbalances of power. I would not have thought that "the best thing to do" is to throw white masculine hands in the air with (contented) resignation, bringing them down only to pat those "others" on the head. Rather I would think that the best thing to do is to work to change inequities in the leadership structures (as McGill's Post-Graduate Students' Society and the CFS have done), in order to ensure that "other perspectives" do not remain in the category of Other.

I suppose it is not surprising that an organisation like CASA,

whose self-centred leadership is primarily white, straight and male, is in favour of a grad tax and income-contingent loan repayment plans. After all, white, straight males are still the most likely to be able to easily afford such education once they have graduated.

It saddens me to see such a lively culture of old-boy wanna-bees festering at a time when access to education is being threatened on all fronts. Call me crazy, but I'd prefer to work with new types of leadership than to propagate a structure that will ultimately render education a privilege solely for the rich. I guess that's why I'm a member of PGSS and CFS, and not CASA.

ERIN RUNIONS,
PGSS COUNCILOR

March for forgotten vets

TO THE *DAILY*,

Few people know that 30,000 Canadians served in Vietnam. Many were decorated, including Congressional Medal of Honor winner Peter Lemon. 106 were killed, including Richard Dextraze, son of our General Jacques Dextraze. Seven are missing in action.

Our government, back-pedaling madly to cover its own complicity in the war (including its role in the development of Agent Orange) has rewarded such volunteerism and willing-

ness to stand for one's beliefs by, at best, trying to sweep our Vietnam vets under the rug, or at worst, trying to denigrate them as 'mercenaries'.

Now many vets are isolated from society. Some have dire financial and health needs, with almost no-one to turn to. They are not bad people, only folks who acted on what they thought was right and who are now getting stuck for it.

This community has a long tradition of marching, campaigning and fund-raising for unfortunate souls half-way around the world. Well, here are some folks who need our help, and they are right here in Québec. Please, take the courage and forthrightness lacking in our government and support the Canadian Vietnam Veterans Québec (PO Box 91, Beauharnois, PQ, J6N 3C1). The funds are used to help known veterans and their families, as well as to seek out those in isolation.

If you cannot afford to contribute, you can show your care by attending the ceremony at the Canadian Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Melochville, off route 132 this Sunday, 8 October at 10h00.

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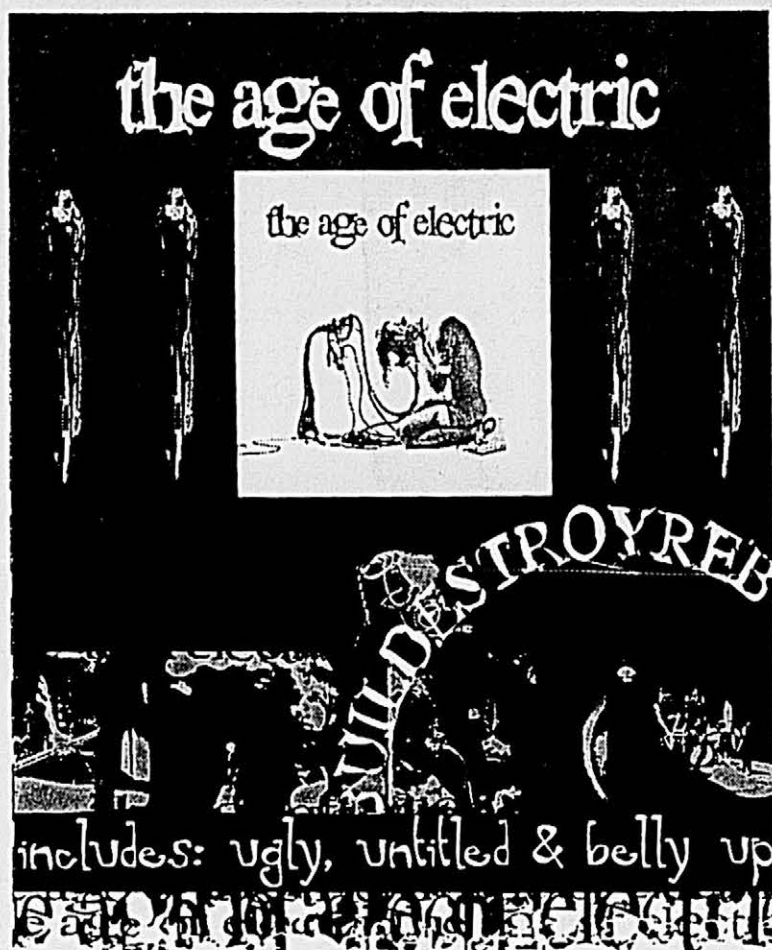
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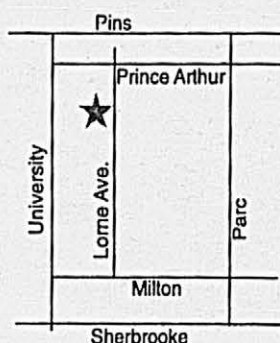
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BY ANUP GREWAL AND
IDELLA STURINO

More than 7 000 angry protesters were met by police in riot gear as they gathered outside the Ontario legislature at Queen's Park last Wednesday to oppose Ontario's new Progressive Conservative Government.

The demonstration took place at noon and coincided with Lieutenant Governor Henry Jackman's delivery of the new government's first Throne Speech.

Laying out the Harris government's agenda, the speech outlined a massive overhaul of the welfare system along with plans to weaken labour laws,

review anti-discrimination policies, loosen restrictions on business, cut income taxes and slash funding to community organisations.

A wide variety of individuals, community groups and activists came together from across the province to send a clear message to the Harris government: Back off.

In the three months since he took office, Premier Harris has made sweeping funding cuts, including cuts to day-care, education, welfare, and affordable housing.

Labour, health, poverty, youth and women's groups have coordinated their response to Harris' ax in what

many are calling the most widespread coalition of dissent in decades.

Noting that Wednesday's huge turnout was only the first response to what will be a long series of attempts to slash government social spending, John Clark of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP) said that Ontarians are witnessing "the biggest social mobilisation in Ontario since the 1930s."

So far, the mobilisation has met with fear and tension from provincial agencies.

Police used pepper spray and billy clubs on protesters and barred access to the legislature in what was a shocking

sight for many onlookers.

Commenting on the demonstration on CBC Radio's *Morningside* the following day, broadcaster and former president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women Judy Rebick said the sight of angry people bursting through police barricades "and the image of police beating down on people isn't something we're used to."

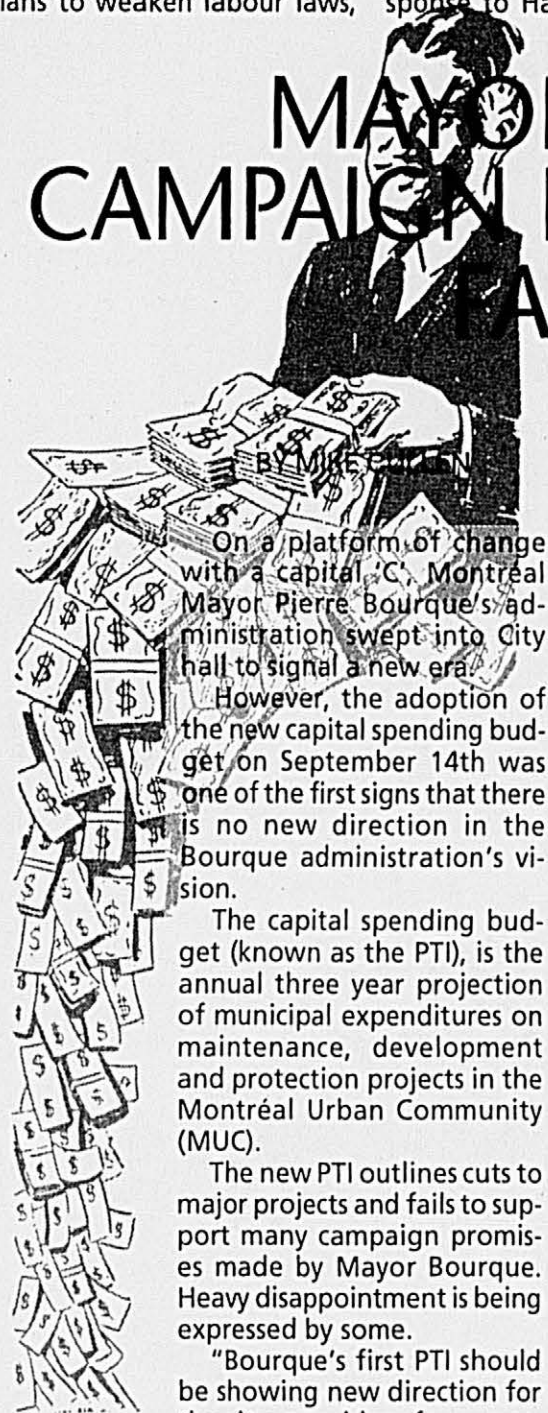
Rebick added that the scene illustrated the politics of polarisation that were ushered in with the election of the PC government.

funding in the province, Tsubouchi commented that parents who can't afford child-care should get friends and neighbours to baby-sit for them instead.

For groups like the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto, such comments reflect an unrealistic understanding of children's needs.

The sentiment that Harris policies are heartless was prevalent at the demonstration, as protesters demanded that he begin caring about the need:

MAYOR BOURQUE'S CAMPAIGN PROMISES FALL SHORT



On a platform of change with a capital 'C', Montréal Mayor Pierre Bourque's administration swept into City hall to signal a new era.

However, the adoption of the new capital spending budget on September 14th was one of the first signs that there is no new direction in the Bourque administration's vision.

The capital spending budget (known as the PTI), is the annual three year projection of municipal expenditures on maintenance, development and protection projects in the Montréal Urban Community (MUC).

The new PTI outlines cuts to major projects and fails to support many campaign promises made by Mayor Bourque. Heavy disappointment is being expressed by some.

"Bourque's first PTI should be showing new direction for the city, new ideas for our urban environment, new programs to stimulate the economy..." said City Councilor Sam Boskey, believing that the new administration's budget fell far short of the mark.

Funding for bike paths, street and sidewalk improvements, vehicle replacement, maintenance of the Bibliothèque Centrale and other community works have all been cut.

Other projects such as plans for a new city garage, a biogaz composting factory and new library for the Park Extension district also disappeared.

Critics say the disappointing

PTI is a result of unrealistic campaign promises made by Bourque, coupled with his failure to responsibly distribute funds throughout the limited city budget.

Helen Fotopolous, city councilor for Mile End, points out that had mayor Bourque come through with all his campaign promises, he would have overspent his \$238 million budget by almost \$100 million.

"He [mayor Bourque] is not putting his money where his mouth is. There's no use in throwing away commitments left and right like a drunken sailor," Boskey reiterated.

Opposition councillors now allege that instead of changing the way the budget is spent, Bourque has resorted to bookkeeping tricks.

Bourque has moved some \$12.5 million in major projects listed under "development" to the "protection" category, indicating projects of maintenance and upkeep.

But changing the classification does not mean much in the end - the total amount of money spent remains the same.

From looking at the records, the impression is that Bourque is increasing funds for development projects while decreasing funds for protection projects. In reality, the changes are negligible in their scope. Fotopolous dismisses these "tricks" as "smoke and mirrors".

Fotopolous argues that the PTI also contains investment plans that are unnecessary; \$7 million going towards the redevelopment of the parking lot across from city hall near Place Jacques Cartier and \$5.1 million to improving boilers/hothouses at the Botanical Gardens - of which Bourque was director for 30 years before becoming mayor.

At the same time, plans to re-vitalise other areas of the city have fallen by the wayside - St. Catherine's Street and the districts of Cote-des-Neiges and Little Burgundy lose out.

Boskey says that for the residents of many communities, the impact of the PTI may mean fewer services and less funding for present and future projects aimed at improving the greater Montréal region. In the end, "Montréal might well wonder why they voted in a new municipal administration last year. Plus ça change..."

Anyone wishing to obtain information or excerpts of the

PTI can contact Marcel Schouinard at 872-2231.

Tightening their belts

The Harris administration was elected on its Common Sense Revolution platform that aimed to slash government spending by \$6 billion per year, in order to balance the budget and reduce the deficit.

Many of Harris' platform promises have been rapidly pushed through since the June election, and several of them were amplified by deeper cuts than originally announced.

At the beginning of last week, Ontario's Minister of Social Services David Tsubouchi announced plans to reduce his government's expenditures by \$9 billion annually in the next five years - even though the original projection had called for an annual reduction of \$6 billion.

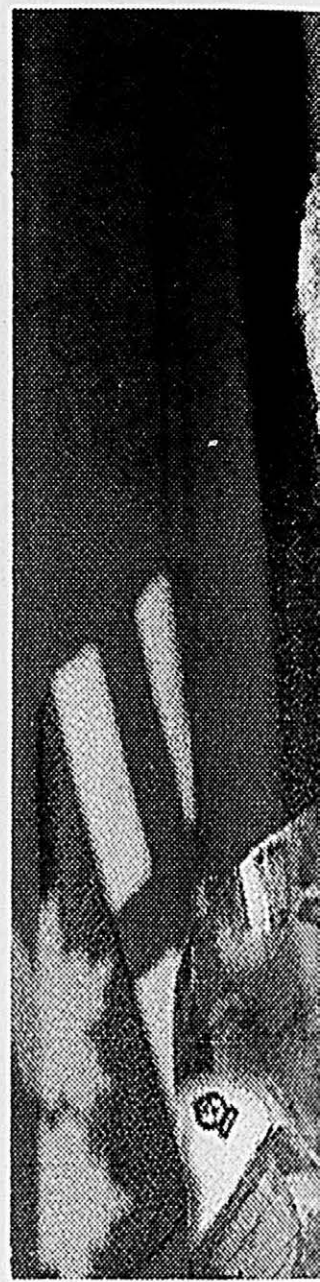
This announcement, which came on the heels of several others in the past two weeks, was rationalised as a necessary measure since everyone is expected to "tighten their belts" in periods of financial crisis.

Among other things, such austerity initiatives have led the government to introduce massive restructuring of the health care system.

Thirty-eight hospitals are expected to be closed starting as early as April 1996. Harris has also suggested replacing the province's universal free drug plan for seniors with an income-based drug subsidy.

And that's not all. After making public cuts to day-care

Image doctoring by MJ Milloy ... ooh ... aah ...



of Ontarians.

While talking to reporters after the Throne Speech, Harris defended himself by saying "This is not a question of caring. In fact, we do care. We are

On July 25, the Harris government announced it would kill 385 co-operative and non-profit housing projects. This legally questionable decision overturned 50 years of federal and provincial housing policy and signaled a loss of affordable housing for almost 45 000 people. It also meant a loss of thousands of jobs and \$751 million in tax revenues.

"The Harris housing vacuum threatens to condemn hundreds of thousands of households to increasingly harsh conditions," wrote the Co-Operative Hous-

ing Association (CHAO).

"The first move since wasn't to cut it was to take away welfare mothers' children," commented And that's not all. Speech, the new government said "Welfare 16 and 17 year-olds tailed and will be forcing young people into undesirable homes." Ashkan Hashemi, a member of the Canadian Federation of described the move

DID YOU

Protesters meet with violent response in Queen's Park

making the changes we want because we care about the collective good of this province. We care about jobs and the future, we care about our children."

Harris went on to further dismiss the demonstrators' accusations, stating, "They are the people, I guess, who like the status quo, who liked the government of the last 10 years of big spending. We, quite frankly, believe we were elected to change that."

But many warn that the only

ans who work with low-income people are preparing for the reality of his policies to hit.

"We're expecting more than a doubling of the need for food banks in the coming months, and maybe more," said Sue Cox of the Daily Bread Food Bank in Toronto.

Pointing out that people are about to feel the first round of welfare cuts, Cox commented that volunteers are bracing themselves for the rising demand of their services. She added that children will be hit

hardest by the welfare cuts, as they make up half of the people using food banks in Ontario.

For much of the city's poor, bracing for the cuts also means a lot of sacrifices.

Terry Burton of the Federation of Metro Tenants Associations said "Food is always discretionary for someone on low-income, because other things are fixed... You can't argue

In addition to the \$32 million cut from primary and secondary education, the Harris government also reduced its funding for universities by \$17 million and colleges by \$7 million in July.

Ashkan Hashemi, a researcher at the Canadian Federation of Students of Ontario (CFS) said these cuts are expected to send the cost of post-secondary education, already quite high in Ontario, skyrocketing.

Coupled with low vacancy rates and already unaffordable rent, Harris' plans to deregulate rent may add to the financial burden on students, particularly those in Toronto.

"There aren't enough resi-

dences on campuses for students... So they live off campus and depend on rent control to keep it affordable. If that's gone, their education will be jeopardised," Hashemi said.

Protesting to win

Despite the fact that Wednesday's demonstration drew individuals from as far away as Georgian Bay, a province-wide consensus against the Harris mandate has not been achieved.

For Rebick, it's a matter of time. "A lot of people don't realise the effect this [government's mandate] is going to have... But I think they're going to realise it very soon."

Activists hope this kind of

realisation will occur as organised community groups remain strong in the public eye.

Clark spoke of building a movement.

"We're protesting to win," he said, noting that there are many examples in history of elected governments being forced to repeal their platforms in the face of widespread dissent.

This will mean more than just one demonstration at Queen's Park, however. Clark said the next step is "to take the battle to the neighbourhoods," with strategies such as "blocking evictions and invading fancy restaurants to make sure people get fed."

HARRIS' COMMON SENSE NOT FOR STUDENTS

BY BRENDA GOLDSTEIN

TORONTO (CUP) — Ontario Premier Mike Harris' plans to get out of the housing business may mean hard times for students looking for affordable housing.

Al Leach, Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing says the current system — whereby the province regulates the percentage by which rents can rise any given year — is inequitable for both tenants and landlords.

"We need a system that protects tenants but also provides an incentive for industry [to build new units]," he said.

Instead, Leach says he prefers a system that gives landlords and tenants more flexibility to negotiate rental increases.

"I would also like to see the marketplace defining for the tenant and the landlord what is fair rent," said Leach.

"Tenants should be able to negotiate what is fair rent. And the landlords should have the ability to protect their investments when the economy boils up."

But even with government controls, many landlords already abuse the current system, says Barbara Hurd of the United Metro Tenants Federation.

"A lot of landlords get past [the government guide-lines for rent increases] by raising rent higher [than allowed] because they know tenants won't report them. If they do get caught, they just roll rent back. You don't go to jail for that sort of thing," Hurd said.

Terry Burton of the Metro Toronto Tenant Association says the lack of rent control will create even greater abuse of the system.

"Landlords are in business to make money. Without rent controls, they will make every penny they can," he said.

Burton says many groups will be hit hard by the removal of rent controls, including people on fixed incomes, recent immigrants, the disabled, single mothers, welfare recipients and students.

"Students are caught in a double bind. The cost of education is increasing, at the same time now housing prices are rising dramatically. It

may make higher education not an option for some people.

"What option will students have but to pay [increased rents]? That will put education out of reach for some students. The extra \$100 [or so] means a lot to students or people on fixed incomes."

Burton says he questions the logic behind Leach's reasoning.

"Market forces do play a certain role, but if you are using the word 'affordable,' the average person will no longer find [rental accommodation] 'affordable.' It will be real hardship on the tenant population that has seen their income declining over time. There will be a certain segment that will find decent housing out of their reach." Francois Dumaine of the National Anti-Poverty Organization says in combination with the Harris governments' other policies, removal of rent control could be disastrous for people who have little extra income.

"This is another decision the government is making that will have an impact on poverty," Dumaine said.

"You have to take all the measures that have been announced into account, [like] cutting welfare, stopping housing projects, rent control and legal aid [cuts]. It is a government that has no intention of addressing the problem of poverty in Ontario."

Christine Burkitt, Leach's press secretary says the ministry is still looking at how to implement rent control changes, but says tenant protection is being considered.

"We recognize the current system is flawed [and] the act is being reviewed. There are several options we are looking at. We want to make sure tenants are protected before we move from one system into the other."

But Hurd says the ministry is only paying lip service to tenant protection.

"The government says 'Oh, we'll have tenant protection,' but it will not be anywhere near what we have now."

She said she does not think the government will consult with tenants or tenants groups when they address the issue this coming spring.

Source: The Varsity, University of Toronto



change Ontario will see is an increase in poverty.

Bracing for the first round

While Harris prepares policies in his new office, Ontari-

with the bus driver over bus fare."

While bus fare may be fixed, university and college tuition fees, as well as rent, probably won't be stable as of next year.

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ing and ignorant" and reflecting a "moronic" understanding of why kids leave home and need welfare.

Until Mike Harris was elected, the premier of Ontario traditionally held office on the second floor of the Queen's Park legislature. This facilitated periodic media access to the premier.

Premier Harris, however, has moved his office to a building across the street from the legislature, guarded by security and accessible only from a special elevator.

KNOW...

Just give it?

Red cross turns away gay blood donors at McGill

BY RYAN FITZGERALD

It's one of the rites of autumn at McGill: MacPoulet, the feathered mascot of our Students' Society, traipses about campus admonishing students to take heart and part with a pint of plasma.

Students line up at the Shatner Ballroom, some looking quite pale, all waiting bravely to bleed a little for the common good. Like every autumn for the past few years, the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) has come to campus this week to elicit donations. And, like many acts of public virtue in our post-modern epoch, the privilege of donating has aroused more than its share of criticism.

Shortly after the end of the 1993 blood drive, several student organisations asked the Students' Society, which coordinates the drive with the CRC, to remove the CRC Blood Drive from the list of sponsored events. The motion, submitted by the then Lesbians, Bisexuals, and Gays of McGill (LBGM), took issue with a question that was part of the CRC Health Assessment Questionnaire which asked potential male donors if, since 1977, they have had "sex with another male, even once."

LBGM objected to the question because it prevents a whole community from donating blood due to sexual orientation, not the individual due to unsafe sexual activities. It would allow, however, women or heterosexual men who have had unprotected sex to donate—even though they are the fastest growing group of HIV positive Canadians. This double standard raised more than a few eyebrows.

Similar motions were considered at the Dalhousie Student Union and the University of Victoria suspended CRC activity on campus. When the Concordia University Students' Association met to consider putting the drive to a referendum, an argument between two student leaders almost came to blows and the meeting had to be recessed.

The McGill Students' Society Council deliberated more amicably, voting 16 to 6 in favour of the motion on the basis that Article 2.3 of the Students' Society constitution restricts involvement in all activities not "undertaken with full respect for human dignity and without discrimination."

But the Post-Graduate Student Society voted down the same motion, and the Medical Students' Society of McGill passed a motion stating that "the CRC blood donor questionnaire is not unjustifiably discriminatory." When the Students' Society motion was defeated that February in a

campus wide referendum by 80 per cent of the student body, the CRC was invited back for the next school year.

Ayesha Khalid is one of three coordinators for this year's CRC blood drive. Along with John Batsis and Zahoor Kareem, she plans to make this year's drive more successful to make up for last year's mild response.

When I mention reservations about the questionnaire, she sympathises. Complaints about homophobia and racial discrimination have given her more than enough pause.

"I know, there are so many questions about that. I have a friend from Ghana who felt so embarrassed last year because if you're from Africa, they turn you away unless you are fully immunised. She was angry because her colour put her under so much scrutiny."

Questions about travel to Africa and the Caribbean have also raised a lot of ire. AIDS, as a pandemic, knows no boundary just as it knows no sexual orientation. Separate assessment about exposure to common regional diseases (like malaria) make the question particularly unnecessary.

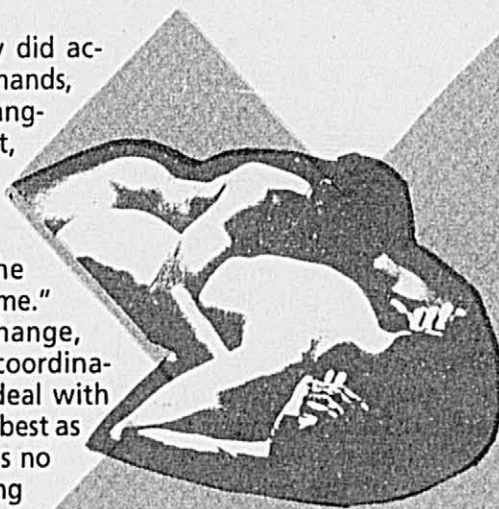
Khalid says the Student's Society has petitioned the CRC repeatedly to change their

questionnaire. They did acquiesce to some demands, making cosmetic changes to the assessment, but, "when it comes down to it, they have changed the wording but the content is still the same."

Sincere about change, Khalid and her co-coordinators have tried to deal with student concerns as best as possible. But she has no illusions about moving the weight of CRC bureaucracy.

"When we started coordinating with the Red Cross last May, we let them know that students, especially those targeted by assessment questions, were upset about discrimination. They told us again and again that certain standards are irrefragable. But what can be changed is the sensitivity of the screening assessment, the sensitivity of nurses that staff the clinic. It is so hard to change all that, but it would make all the difference in the world."

This year the CRC announced that it's reserve of blood plasma, which supplies the entire country, is reaching emergency levels. Public confidence in the CRC has been in a



DAILY GRAPHIC BY KLARA BANASZAK

tail-spin since reports of AIDS- and hepatitis-tainted blood began appearing in the media several years ago. Highly publicised transfusion scares and blood recalls have compounded reports of screening inadequacies; a survey of Canadians conducted by the COMPAS firm revealed that almost a third of those polled said they would consider refusing a transfusion unless absolutely necessary.

Public pressure is on the CRC to rebuild public confidence in the blood supply and to comply with the standards and

screening procedures of Canadian Bureau of Biologic and the American Federal Drug Administration, inflexible institutions which answer to medical boards and hospitals. But what is needed here - what is best for the CRC - is an amendment of the Health Assessment Questionnaire.

After the 1993 Students' Society withdrawal from the CRC Blood Drive, a coalition of the Students' Society and other McGill and Concordia groups published a pamphlet titled, *The Red Cross Should Discriminate*. The pamphlet calls for the CRC to "prohibit anyone engaging in high-risk activities from donating their blood" - not just those who happen to be male and gay.

If you want to donate blood, the CRC will be holding a clinic in the Shatner Ballroom during school hours this week. Call Students' Society for info at 398.6008

If you want more information on how to change CRC assessment policy, call LBGM at 398.6822

AIDS

BY ZACHARY SCHWARTZ

AIDS Awareness Week kicks off today, but it seems like Canadians already know about HIV infection and how to prevent it - the problem is that we aren't doing anything about it.

Anne Rivaud of the McGill AIDS Centre referred to a study in which "90 per cent of respondents were able to give a reasonably accurate description of AIDS and how it is transmitted."

That means we know that HIV, the virus thought to cause AIDS, can only be transmitted by the exchange of infected body fluids.

Unfortunately, the same study reports that "many who are at risk have not changed their behaviour."

Dr. Pierre Tellier, a physician at McGill Student Health Services, agreed with this study. The students that come to him as patients are "well-informed," he said. "But

do they protect [themselves]? No."

Tellier pointed out that many students find discussing protection with their sexual partners difficult, and that students are not necessarily in stable relationships while at university.

According to many organisations dealing with AIDS awareness, the stigma at-

population at large doesn't realise is that the incidence among heterosexuals is on the rise. Recent figures claim that 75 per cent of AIDS cases worldwide are the result of heterosexual sex, and HIV infection rates are rising most rapidly among heterosexual young women.

"HIV infection is caused by behaviour - not by being a member of a high risk group," said David Wright, health promotion coordinator at McGill Student Health Services.

Dr. Tellier agrees that the risk of becoming infected with HIV depends on how one acts, and not to which group one belongs.

"If you use a condom or wash your needles, then who cares who you're with? The bottom line is risky behaviour."

Many McGill students do get tested for HIV infection, according to Tellier, especially "those coming in or out of sexual relationships".

"[Students] get tested as

part of a commitment to each other, or from anxiety when coming out of a relationship," he observed.

When asked whether this testing is necessary, Tellier answers, "Yes, and no. The ultimate effect of HIV infection is severe, statistics show infection is increasing, [and] it's the responsible thing to do."

However, he added that the actual incidence is very low, and individuals are more likely to get other sexually transmitted diseases.

In Québec, and therefore at McGill Student Health Services, no records of HIV tests, let alone their results, are kept.

"It allows me the opportunity for more testing," said Tellier. "The person [being tested] doesn't have to fear that the results will be documented, and that they will be discriminated against."

Because of this philosophy of protecting the patient, statistics on the prevalence of HIV infection in Québec are difficult to compile. "Without this information," says Tellier, "[the government has] no idea how to plan the health budget."

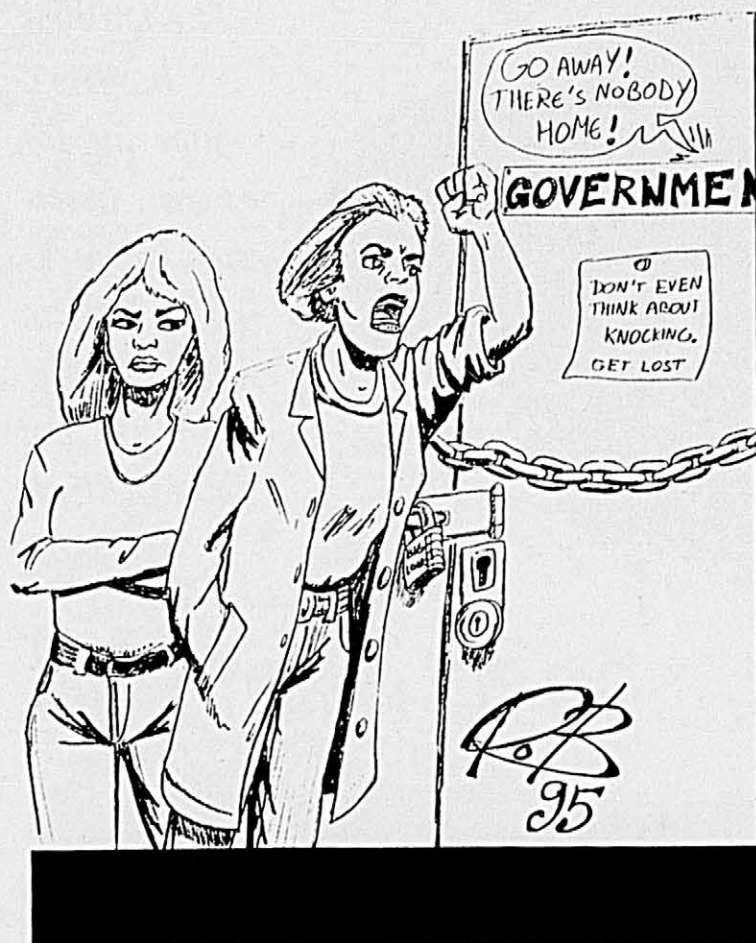
These people have something in common...

AIDS

The tragedy is that it could have been prevented.

A PROMISE FULFILLED? EVENTS EVEN

Women's advisory committee to the PQ still undefined



DAILY GRAPHIC BY JEAN-FRANÇOIS ROBICHAUD

BY DOMINIQUE NOUVET

Women are hoping to gain a new voice in the Québec government with the establishment of the a new advisory committee known as the Comité d'action et de concertation sur l'économie sociale.

The committee, created as a result of a promise by Premier Jacques Parizeau to participants in Bread and Roses March Against Poverty last May, has so far been "disappointing," said committee member Josée Belleau.

Organisers of Bread and Roses had initially conceived the idea to improve the social infrastructure and increase permanent employment for women.

However, there is some doubt over the extent to which the committee is an adequate response to poverty among women as highlighted by Bread and Roses.

The province has promised to spend \$225 million over the next five years for the committee to create an infrastructure for social programs.

But the \$25 million allocated for this year is only a re-channeling of funds previously allocated to the departments of Health and Social Services, Revenue Security and Regional Development. The new committee currently operates in conjunction with the Secrétariat à la condition féminine.

Belleau expressed frustration over the fact that "We cannot change the programs this year."

Belleau and others had envisioned a far more active role for the committee. Ideally, Belleau stated, the committee would "elaborate criteria for projects which create social structures for permanent employment, with these jobs being primarily accessible to women."

The committee would then apply

this criteria to funding applications from regional women's groups and allocate resources to those projects which were felt to be most promising.

Commenting on whether the original purpose of the committee would become a reality in the years to follow, Belleau said "We really don't know." She added that even the origins of the remaining \$200 million seem unclear at this point in

time.

Ginette Busque, one of the government's technical assistants to the committee, is far more confident in her outlook: Commenting on the rest of the \$200 million, Busque said that "for now, nothing is excluded."

She continued, saying that "funding could come from other ministries, such as, for example, Justice."

Busque also stressed the fact that the committee is involved in an ongoing process. Thus, while she seemed to echo Belleau's wishes for the establishment of criteria to judge projects and programs, stating that "We have to develop a philosophy," she expressed this fact with less urgency: "There are things which we have to set in motion immediately, but there are others which we have to accept to work on over the medium and long terms."

Thus, regardless of the committee's current limitations, Busque found that the "steps which the government has taken are serious." Her clear optimism is a reassuring contrast to the concerns expressed by Belleau. However, until the committee is given time to prove its effectiveness, Bread and Roses participants will be unable to assess whether their government has adequately addressed the problem of poverty among women.

What's really at stake: McGill prof on financial problems of a sovereign Québec

BY JACQUELINE REIS

The Parti Québécois government may be doing some hoodwinking of its own with respect to the finances of a sovereign Québec, according to McGill Professor Reuven Brenner.

"Either Parizeau does not understand the implications of what he's saying, or he misleads," Brenner told a small group of professors and alumni during The Back to School Lecture two weekends ago.

Brenner spoke at the request of the Alumni Association on "The Finances of a Political Divorce." He reiterated the financial problems of a sovereign Québec that he had first brought to light in a series of two articles printed in *La Presse* in January.

One major problem with sovereignty, said Brenner, is the question of whether investors will consider Québec able and willing to pay off its share of Canada's national debt.

"The issue is sustained creditworthiness... If they [a sovereign Québec] do not have access to credit, sovereignty becomes a costly illusion... a promise which may be fulfilled once the debt Québec shares with the rest of Canada is paid," Brenner writes in an extended English version of the *La Presse* articles.

The professor later added that the PQ's policies to date, including limiting competition in the construction sector and increasing subsidies "to buy votes," give a bad signal of a separate Québec's creditworthiness.

"I try... to use numbers that the market provides... So I am not giving my own view, but how people see the situation," Brenner told his audience. His analyses rely on the differences in interest rates on provincial debts.

Brenner said that many of the financial issues associated with sovereignty have been glossed over, including a possible decrease in the standard of living.

"You will be 20 to 30 per cent poorer, but you will be viable... There are many poor countries," he commented. "That's what the numbers

in financial markets today reflect." Choosing and supporting a Québec currency will also be problematic, said Brenner.

"He [Parizeau] doesn't want to talk about it. He says it's the Canadian dollar. It's in his document."

"But the PQ can't fix the exchange rate at one to one... It's only if Québec and Canada will have the same standard of living and people expect that, that this may work. But then, why separate? If nothing changes, then why do it?"

"Have you heard anything that's factually correct from the PQ?" asked one of the seven audience members. Brenner paused.

"Factually, no... [What they say about] currency is not true, how they will attempt to [attract] international [investors is] not true, what they say about agriculture is not true," and the list went on.

In the end, Brenner debunked everything from the ability of Québec farmers to sell their crops to the PQ's questionable characterisation of Mirabel Airport as an asset.

When asked how a university like McGill could hope to continue attracting top professors and government funding, Brenner replied with the "P" word that has already popped up numerous times on campus this year: privatisation, something he had advocated a number of times in the past.

Admitting that "The university today, it's not the buildings, it's the professors," Brenner said McGill might survive separation if it becomes a private university.

"But the government will default on its payments before that [privatisation] could happen. Since I don't believe that the Yes has a majority of votes, Québec will not default, and though good students could be better served by a private university, for the moment this is not in the cards," he said.

Privatisation aside, Brenner's prediction for sovereignty seems clear: Neither Québec nor Canadian finances will be helped by a Yes vote.

Neither Québec nor Canadian finances will be helped by a Yes vote.

ONGOING

•**McGill University Photographic Society** offers classes in a variety of topics for a variety of skill levels. Info: Shatner B-06.

•**McGill Domestic Violence Clinics** support group for Women Survivors of Domestic Violence. Info: contact Sophia or Arlene, 398-2686.

•**McGill Domestic Violence Clinic** treatment group for Men Who Abuse their Partners. Info: contact Johanne, 398-2686.

•**Bereavement support groups.** Six session starting in October. McGill School of Social Work. Free. Info: Estelle Hopmeyer 398-7067.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

•**Zero Patience** will be screened as part of **AIDS Awareness Week.** Benefit for the Centre Pierre-Hénault. Leacock 132, 19h, entrance by donation.

•**The Jewish Women's Circle** presents "VIDUY: Apology & Confession in the Final Hour." Service with Professor Natalie Polzer. Stanley St. (Hillel House) at 19h.

•**Prof. Myron Echenberg** will speak on "Public Health and Development: A Historian's Perspective" at the **Centre for Developing Area Studies**, 3715 Peel St., at noon. Info: call 398-3507 or 398-4877.

•**AMI Québec** hosts an evening support group for families of the mentally ill. 19h30, 4333 Cote Ste. Catherine Rd. or call 486-1448.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

•**Player's Theatre** presents David Mamet's *Oleanna* and *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*. Runs until October 14. Info: 398-6813.

•**Image Ensemble Film Society** holds its first night class: "An Introduction to Techniques of Production," 19h at 3475 Peel St. rm 101. Two dollars for non-members and free for members.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

•**LBGM's** bisexual discussion group meets in the Women's Union, Shatner 423, 17h30. Both men and women are welcome.

•**McGill for the Ethical Treatment of Animals** meeting. Union Building, rm 435. 16h30. Info: Marc 342-5849.

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EVENTS EVENTS

Putting an end to violence

COMMITTEE ADDRESSES VIOLENCE AGAINST GAYS AND LESBIANS

BY ERIN PRELYPCHAN

A unique new programme aimed at combatting violence against gays and lesbians was launched last week in Montréal.

Representatives of the Comité multipartite sur la violence exercée à l'endroit des gays et lesbiennes announced the beginning of their pilot project entitled 'Dire enfin la violence' at a press conference last Friday.

The Comité multipartite is comprised of representatives of the Table de concertation des gays et lesbiennes du Grand Montréal, Québec's Human Rights Commission, the Montréal Urban Community police (SPCUM), Health and Social services for Central Montréal, the Montréal Urban Community (MUC) and the City of Montréal.

The new project aims "to widen the dialogue and the approaches...as well as to propose concrete measures for reducing the incidence of violence towards gays and lesbians".

Serge Ménard, the Minister of Public Security for Québec, said at the press conference that the significance of this project is that it is "attempting to change this attitude [of prejudice against gays and lesbians] so that victims are received with empathy and that they do not hesitate to report these crimes."

'Dire enfin la violence' comes as a

response to reports of violent crimes in the MUC and especially within the 'gay village', where 213 violent crimes were reported within the first eight months of this year.

Elsewhere in the MUC, the statistics of violent homophobic crimes are uncertain. The proposal for the project, however, states that "any uncertainty surrounding the numbers of homophobic crimes committed within the MUC does not justify indifference or inaction."

The project itself will include a 1-800 number for reporting homophobic crimes and an awareness programme for the gay and lesbian community at large as well as the SPCUM.

Ménard said that educating the police was especially important so that they would "know these people [the gay and lesbian community] well and convince them that they do not need to fear using the system". Also planned are a victim support centre, a neighbourhood watch in the 'gay village' and an advocacy and accompaniment programme for victims of homophobic crimes.

Duchesneau said that he hopes this programme will be "a model for other police forces".

The project's budget of \$150 000 per annum will also cover the salaries of an a professional counsellor and two prevention and crisis intervention workers.

According to Le Clerc, "This project is unique ... because it is the first time that a government [in Québec] has recognised, with money, that a gay and lesbian community exists".

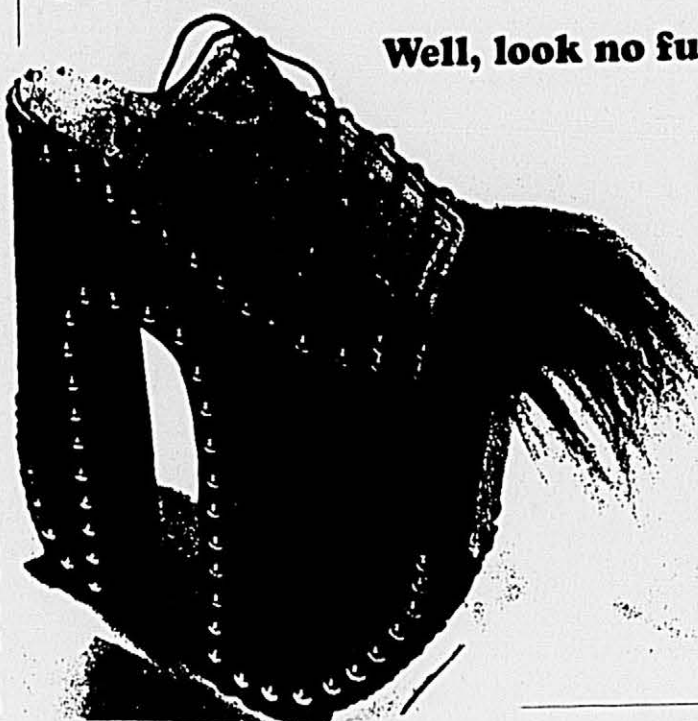
'Dire enfin la violence' is the result of two years of planning and negotiations within the Comité multipartite. The Comité proposed the project and will continue to act in an advisory capacity once the project is up and running.

Funding for the project has been made possible through grants from several provincial ministries including Public Security and Health and Social Services.

Despite the positive response to the initiative, there has been some speculation over the motivations behind it. When asked at the press conference what the context of this project is with respect to the referendum, Ménard said that 'Dire enfin la violence' is "definitely a Parti-Québécois initiative". In early September, Michael Hendricks, spokesperson for the Table commented on the upcoming announcement of the initiative. "I suspected that it was all related to politics. Politicians tend to give things before elections."

Searching for a creative outlet?

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Education to what end:

FIGHTING FOR A SOCIAL ROLE

BY ARAFAAT VALIANI

that the education mandate was one that should increase participation in democracy. It "should encourage confronting ideas and collectivity," a quality he believes is absent from the present system. In the spirit of democracy, education's mandate "should encourage collectivity... and encourage a convergence of ideas."

Pagé criticised an educational mandate which "strived for collectivity and individual rights at the same time."

The psychology professor also suggested that "individuals would participate in democracy out of their own free will, and this would protect individual rights while addressing needs of the community."

Pagé's belief was that "education can be an ideological war if not viable," and that this problem would arise from "an educational system which strives for individuality and collectivity concurrently."

During the question period, Laliberté noted that "excessive emphasis on individual rights can lead to their exacerbation, and we have to ask ourselves as to how to prevent them from becoming absolute in light of the ideals of community and solidarity."

"The political role of education is to produce a political conscience in its participants within the context of a democracy which welcomes confronting opinions."

The debate ended with closing statements from both speakers. Pagé emphasised "the questionability of consensus given the multi ethnic/political society." He also reiterated that "pluralism and choice were *real* and a homogenous community is not *real*. A critique of individual rights is a denial of what one is".

"Factors of human psychology do not lend to group participation or debate," he added.

"Society can only be perpetuated through non-dogmatic recognition of our human connection. Hopefully, all socialising institutions, like family, community and education, would recognise this human connection as something that is important."

Gérard Raymond Laliberté and Michel Pagé exchanged ideas at the Bibliothèque nationale last Friday in a debate about the political role of education in our society.

Emphasising the need for a socio-political mandate, Laliberté, a retired professor of Sciences and Education from Université Laval, stressed that "the purpose of educating students was to create participants in a democracy, solidarity and justice."

He added that "education should... perpetuate the necessity of political participation to the following generations."

Pagé, a psychology professor at Université de Montréal and a researcher with the Research Group for the Adaptation of Pluralism in Education (GREAP), offered a counter-proposal: "Education can allow an emphasis of individuality and competition which would voluntarily result in democratic participants."

Laliberté stated that "education which focused on individuality placed it before community and interests of working people." He also criticised the current post-secondary educational mandate for "its over-emphasis on specialisation" solely for the sake of industry, advocating instead "a balanced curriculum consisting of both general and specialised disciplines."

Laliberté continued, condemning "the economist agenda which had no place in being applied to education." He prescribed "a long-term perspective to funding economics in order to ensure democracy and its social contract."

Laliberté's analysis acknowledged

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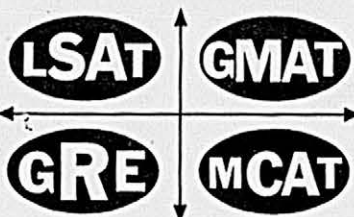
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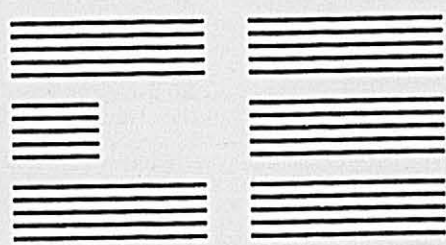
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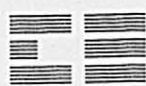
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